



# FloorPrep

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Legislative Digest

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

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J.C. Watts, Jr.  
Chairman  
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 5—Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act**

**H.R. 1833—Iran Nonproliferation Act (Considering Senate Amendments)**

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## **H.R. 5—Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House is expected to consider H.R. 5 as its first order of business today. Mr. Archer or a designee is expected to ask unanimous consent to provide two hours of general debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Ways & Means Committee. The anticipated agreement will not allow amendments but provides one motion to recommit.

**Summary:** H.R. 5 repeals the Social Security "earnings limit" that affects approximately 800,000 Social Security recipients between the full retirement age (currently age 65) and age 70. This current law policy reduces, and in some cases eliminates, seniors' Social Security benefits if they work and earn more than annual income limits (which amount to \$17,000 in 2000). The measure also makes several technical amendments to current law. The measure affects income earned after December 31, 1999 (*i.e.*, beginning this year, seniors age 65 and older may work and earn unlimited income without losing any Social Security benefits).

ACBO estimate indicates that enactment will cost \$22.7 billion over the next 10 years. However, actuaries from the Social Security Administration have indicated that the cost of the measure over the long term is negligible. The bill was introduced by Mr. Johnson *et al.* and was reported by the Ways & Means Committee by voice vote on February 29, 2000.

**Views:** The Republican leadership strongly supports passage of the bill. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time. Unofficially, however, President Clinton has stated that he will sign the bill.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #4, February 25, 2000.

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## **H.R. 1883—Iran Nonproliferation Act (Considering Senate Amendments)**

**Floor Situation:** Mr. Gilman or a designee is expected to ask unanimous consent to allow the House to consider the Senate amendments to H.R. 1883 after it completes consideration of H.R. 5. The unanimous consent request is expected to provide one hour of general debate.

**Summary:** H.R. 1883, as amended by the Senate, requires the president to submit biannual reports to Congress identifying entities (*i.e.*, any foreign country, corporation, or individual) that, according to credible information, have transferred missile goods or technology to Iran after January 1, 1999. The bill *authorizes* the president to impose sanctions (instead of mandating sanctions in the House-passed bill) against entities found responsible for the transfers, including denying arms export licenses and cutting off all U.S. assistance to the entity for two years.

The measure prohibits releasing the remaining U.S. funding (\$590 million) for the International Space Station to the Russian government unless the president certifies that no entity under the jurisdiction of the Russian Aviation & Space Agency has transferred missile technology to Iran during the past year. The Senate amendment allows entities threatened with sanctions to respond to allegations before such penalties become effective. In addition, the amendment clarifies that the bill *authorizes* the president to impose sanctions but does not require him to do so. Finally, the Senate amendment makes small technical changes to the bill.

The House originally passed H.R. 1883 by a vote of 419-0 on September 14, 1999. The Senate amended and passed the bill by a vote of 98-0 on February 24, 2000.

**Views:** The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. An official Clinton administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time, although recent media reports have indicated that the president would sign the Senate-amended version of the bill.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #4, February 25, 2000.

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